

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1537

Introduced by Assembly Member Wyland

February 21, 2003

An act to amend Section 51221.3 of the Education Code, relating to curriculum.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1537, as introduced, Wyland. Education: curriculum.

Under existing law, the adopted course of study for grades 7 to 12, inclusive, is required to include instruction in the social sciences, as prescribed.

Existing law requires that instruction to contain instruction on World War II and the American role in that war. Existing law expresses the Legislature's intent to encourage that the instruction include a component drawn from personal testimony of American soldiers who were involved in World War II and those men and women who contributed to the war effort on the homefront. Existing law specifies that this instruction shall be carried out in a manner that does not result in any new duties or programs being imposed on school districts.

This bill would, in addition, require instruction on the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and encourage that the instruction include personal testimony of those involved in the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

Because the bill would require a school district to provide instruction on additional subjects, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that

reimbursement, including the creation of a State Mandates Claims Fund to pay the costs of mandates that do not exceed \$1,000,000 statewide and other procedures for claims whose statewide costs exceed \$1,000,000.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 51221.3 of the Education Code is
2 amended to read:
3 51221.3. (a) Instruction in the area of social sciences, as
4 required pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 51220, shall
5 include instruction on World War II, *the Korean War, and the*
6 *Vietnam War*, and the American role in ~~that war~~ *those wars*. The
7 Legislature encourages that this instruction include, but not be
8 limited to, a component drawn from personal testimony, especially
9 in the form of oral or video history, if available, of American
10 soldiers who were involved in ~~World War II~~ *those wars* and ~~those~~
11 *the men and women who contributed to the war effort on the*
12 *homefront. The oral histories used as part of the instruction*
13 *regarding World War II those wars* shall exemplify the personal
14 sacrifice and courage of the wide range of ordinary citizens who
15 were called upon to participate. The oral histories shall contain the
16 views and comments of their subjects regarding the reasons for
17 American participation in ~~the war~~ *those wars* and, *with regard to*
18 *World War II*, the actions taken to end the war in the Pacific. These
19 oral histories shall also solicit comments from their subjects
20 regarding the aftermath of ~~the war~~ *World War II* in Eastern Europe
21 and the former Soviet Union.
22 (b) This section shall be carried out in a manner that does not
23 result in any new duties or programs being imposed on the school
24 district. In that regard, the Legislature finds and declares that this
25 section does not mandate costs to local agencies or school districts
26 and materials used to comply with this section shall be part of



1 normal curriculum materials purchased by school districts in their
2 normal course of business and purchasing cycles.

3 SEC. 2. Notwithstanding Section 17610 of the Government
4 Code, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that this
5 act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local
6 agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant
7 to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title
8 2 of the Government Code. If the statewide cost of the claim for
9 reimbursement does not exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000),
10 reimbursement shall be made from the State Mandates Claims
11 Fund.

